

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 194474
ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY NEA:MDRAPER:JD

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA:HHSAUNDERS

S/S-O: RCASTRODALE

IO:GHELMAN (INFORMED)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE 0503

S E C R E T STATE 194474

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS, FOR AMBASSADOR LEWIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PDIP PBOR PORG MILI LE IS

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY TO BEGIN

, PLEASE DELIVER TO PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AS EARLY AS
POSSIBLE ON WEDNESDAY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE
SECRETARY.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER:

FOLLOWING OUR LAST EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES ON THE LEBANESE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 194474

SITUATION, I HAD HOPED THAT EVENTS IN THAT COUNTRY WOULD
ALLOW ME TO WAIT UNTIL WE MEET TOGETHER TO DISCUSS THE KIND
OF LEBANON WE TOGETHER WOULD LIKE TO SEE EMERGE FROM ALL
ITS MANY PROBLEMS. I FEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRESENT
SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON WILL NOT PERMIT ANY DELAY.

FOR ALMOST A YEAR, WE HAVE BEEN URGING THE LEBANESE GOVERN-

MENT TO SEND SOME LEBANESE ARMY UNITS INTO SOUTHERN LEBANON TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF REESTABLISHING LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY THERE. THE LEBANESE FINALLY DECIDED TO DO SO AND THEY NOW HAVE A 650-MAN UNIT IN SOUTHERN LEBANON BUT CANNOT PROCEED BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS WHICH WE HAVE EXAMINED

WITH DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THIS LEBANESE FORCE GO TO THE AREA WHERE IT IS TO ESTABLISH ITS HEADQUARTERS. IF IT IS PREVENTED FROM DOING SO, FOR WHAT-EVER REASON, IT COULD WELL MEAN THE FINAL FALL OF THE SARKIS GOVERNMENT AND THUS A MAJOR BLOW TO BRINGING ABOUT A STABILIZED LEBANON WITH A STRONG, MODERATE GOVERNMENT OF THE KIND I AM CONFIDENT ISRAEL WOULD LIKE TO SEE DEVELOP.

I RECOGNIZE THAT ISRAEL HAS INTERESTS IN WHAT OCCURS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, WHICH HAS OFTEN BEEN THE AREA FROM WHICH ATTACKS ON YOUR TOWNS AND PEOPLE HAVE BEEN LAUNCHED. I WAS GRATIFIED THAT DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN MADE CLEAR TO US THAT ISRAEL HAD NO PROBLEM IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE PLANS OF THE LEBANESE ARMY TO ESTABLISH A POSITION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. UNFORTUNATELY, THE SITUATION IS GETTING OUT OF HAND. HADDAD'S FORCES HAVE SHELLED THE LEBANESE UNIT OFF AND ON DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS. I HAVE JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT THE UNIT IS UNDER SHELLFIRE AGAIN.

IN THE SPIRIT OF OUR COMMON WISH TO WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 194474

ON ISSUES SUCH AS THESE -- AS REAFFIRMED BY BOTH OF US ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO -- I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT WOULD REEXAMINE URGENTLY THE PRESENT PROBLEMS HOLDING UP THE FORWARD PASSAGE OF THE LEBANESE ARMY UNIT NOW STOPPED AT KAWKABA WITH A VIEW TO OVERCOMING THEM AND ALLOWING THE ARMY UNIT TO PROCEED EXPEDITIOUSLY.

WITH ALL GOOD WISHES, SINCERELY, CYRUS VANCE. END TEXT.

VANCE

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NNN

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